

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 1-4 and add new claims 5-13.

Listing of Claims:

1 - 4. (Cancelled)

5. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a front mower deck with a front hydraulic motor to rotate a front cutting blade, a left mower deck with a left hydraulic motor to rotate a left cutting blade, and a right mower deck with a right hydraulic motor to rotate a right cutting blade; the left and right mower decks being lowerable to an operating position and raiseable to a non-operating position;

a hydraulic pump supplying hydraulic fluid to the front hydraulic motor; the front hydraulic motor having an exit flow connected to a hydraulic circuit; the hydraulic circuit having first and second solenoid-operated directional control valves, and first and second pilot-operated directional control valves;

the hydraulic circuit directing exit flow from the front hydraulic motor to the left hydraulic motor if the left mower deck is lowered to the operating position to energize the first solenoid-operated directional control valve which provides a pilot signal to open the first pilot-operated directional control valve; the hydraulic circuit directing exit flow from the front hydraulic motor to bypass the left hydraulic motor if the left mower deck is raised to the non-operating position to de-energize the first solenoid-operated directional control valve which closes the first pilot-operated directional control valve;

the hydraulic circuit directing exit flow from the front hydraulic motor to the right hydraulic motor if the right mower deck is lowered to the operating position to energize the second solenoid-operated directional control valve which provides a pilot signal to open the second pilot-operated directional control valve; the hydraulic circuit directing the exit flow from the front hydraulic motor to bypass the right hydraulic motor if the right mower deck is raised to the non-operating position to de-energize the second solenoid-operated directional control valve which closes the

second pilot-operated directional control valve;

the hydraulic circuit directing exit flow from the front hydraulic motor to both of the left and right hydraulic motors in series if both of the left and right mower decks are lowered to their operating positions to energize both of the first and second solenoid-operated directional control valves which provide pilot signals to open both of the first and second pilot-operated directional control valves.

6. (New) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the first and second pilot-operated directional control valves are each biased to their closed positions.

7. (New) The apparatus of claim 5 further comprising a relief valve in the hydraulic circuit around each of the left and right hydraulic motors.

8. (New) A hydraulic circuit connected to the exit of a first hydraulic motor comprising:

a first solenoid-operated directional control valve that is energized by moving a second hydraulic motor into an operating position causing the first solenoid-operated directional control valve to provide a first pilot signal to a first pilot-operated directional control valve that opens in response to the first pilot signal to direct hydraulic fluid from the exit of the first hydraulic motor to the second hydraulic motor; the first solenoid-operated directional control valve being de-energized by moving the second hydraulic motor into a non-operating position causing the first solenoid-operated directional control valve to end the pilot signal and the first pilot-operated directional control valve to close so that the hydraulic fluid from the exit of the first hydraulic motor bypasses the second hydraulic motor; and

a second solenoid-operated directional control valve that is energized by moving a third hydraulic motor into an operating position causing the second solenoid-operated directional control valve to provide a second pilot signal to a second pilot-operated directional control valve that opens in response to the second pilot signal to direct hydraulic fluid from the exit of the first hydraulic motor to the third hydraulic motor; the second solenoid-operated directional control valve being de-energized by moving the third hydraulic motor into a non-operating position causing the second solenoid-operated directional control valve to end the pilot signal

and the second pilot-operated directional control valve to close so that the hydraulic fluid from the exit of the first hydraulic motor bypasses the third hydraulic motor.

9. (New) The hydraulic circuit of claim 8 wherein moving both of the second and third hydraulic motors into their operating positions causes the first and second solenoid-operated directional control valves to provide pilot signals to the first and second pilot-operated directional control valves that open in response to the pilot signals to direct the hydraulic fluid from the exit of the first hydraulic motor to the second and third hydraulic motors in series.

10. (New) The hydraulic circuit of claim 8 wherein each hydraulic motor is mounted on a mower deck.

11. (New) The hydraulic circuit of claim 10 wherein each hydraulic motor is moved to the operating position by lowering the mower deck.

12. (New) An electro-hydraulic circuit to provide hydraulic flow to a plurality of hydraulic motors on a plurality of mower decks, the mower decks movable between operating and non-operating positions, comprising:

a plurality of solenoid-operated control valves, each solenoid-operated control valve associated with a hydraulic motor on a mower deck and providing a pilot signal if the mower deck is in the operating position; and

a plurality of pilot operated control valves operatively connected to the solenoid-operated control valves; each pilot operated control valve opening hydraulic flow to one of the hydraulic motors in the presence of a pilot signal associated with that motor and closing hydraulic flow to the hydraulic motor in the absence of the pilot signal; the pilot operated control valves opening to provide hydraulic flow to a plurality of hydraulic motors in series in the presence of a plurality of pilot signals.

13. (New) The electro-hydraulic circuit of claim 12 further comprising at least one hydraulic motor on a mower deck that is not associated with a solenoid-operated control valve.